

# UF/IFAS Plant Nutrient Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes – Sept. 3, 2025, 9:00-11:00am (Zoom)

## Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions (Dukes)
2. Previous meeting minutes (review draft doc, [PNOC Meeting-Minutes-DRAFT \(5-1-2025\).docx](#) (all review)
3. Field corn interim nutrient rate recommendation presentation (all review draft, [Corn N recommendations Draft 7-21-25.docx](#), [Corn\\_N rate Study PNOC EDIS 2025.pptx](#), Sharma, L.) (vote)
4. Nutrient management update (Dukes)
  - 4.1. Nutrient management FY25-26 funding update
  - 4.2. Recommendations in 2025
    - 4.2.1. Cotton N interim, May
    - 4.2.2. Grain corn N interim, Sept.
    - 4.2.3. NE potato background, Dec.
    - 4.2.4. Miami-Dade bean background, Dec.
    - 4.2.5. Sod N interim, Dec.
  - 4.3. Nutrient Management, 2025 meetings
    - 4.3.1. Citrus advisory committee, 8/18
    - 4.3.2. Tomato, potato, bean recommendations meeting, 9/24
    - 4.3.3. Potato advisory committee, 9/26
    - 4.3.4. Tomato advisory committee, 10/30
    - 4.3.5. Sod advisory committee, 11/17
    - 4.3.6. Bean advisory committee, TBD
5. Future meetings (All)
  - 5.1. Sept. 24, zoom (data meeting?)
  - 5.2. Nov. 4, zoom (in person?)
  - 5.3. Dec. 1, zoom (Drs. Bayabil & Zotarelli, in person?)
  - 5.4. Dec. 15, zoom (Dr. Lindsey)

## Attendees

Michael Dukes, Andra Johnson, Rob Gilbert, Saqib Mukhtar, Chris Gunter, Lakesh Sharma, Sanjay Shukla, Patrick Christopher Wilson, Cheryl Mackowiak, Samira Daroub, Jerry Fankhauser, Rao Mylavapu, Lincoln Zotarelli, Patrick Marr

## Meeting Summary

- Michael Dukes opened the meeting at 9:00am, reviewed and approved minutes from May 1, 2025.
- Lakesh presented on field corn nutrient rate recommendations
  - o Findings:

- Recommended interim N rate: 1.37 lbs. N/bushel yield
  - Yield range: 200-240 bushels/ac<sup>-1</sup> with N requirement of 257-315 lbs./ac
  - Agronomic recovery efficiency (ARE): 60-70%
  - 2024 STEP results confirmed regional yield consistency, showing 280 lbs N/ac sufficient for max yield (~282 bushels/ac)
- Outcomes:
  - Findings accepted for journal publication
  - Committee approved interim rate recommendation for non-silage/grain corn by general consent
- Michael Dukes provided general updates regarding the Nutrient Management program
  - \$4M in state funding for nutrient research
  - Concerns raised over future funding reliability and possible impacts from recent legislation
  - Upcoming meetings

*Opening Remarks – Michael Dukes*

UF/IFAS Associate Dean for Special Initiatives and interim director of the UF/IFAS Plant Nutrient Oversight Committee (PNOC), Michael Dukes, opened the meeting at 9:00am and reviewed the minutes from the May 1, 2025 meeting. The meetings were approved by the committee.

*Presentation: Field Corn Interim Nutrient Rate Recommendation – Lakesh Sharma*

Lakesh Sharma presented his findings to support the new interim nutrient rate recommendations. Information supports an application rate of 1.37 lbs. N/bushel of corn yield. The relationship results in N requirements of 257-315 lbs. ac<sup>-1</sup> for a yield potential of ~200-240 bushels ac<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. This range results in N agronomic recovery efficiency (ARE) of 60-70%. In 2024, the Stakeholder Engagement Program (STEP) confirms that experiment yields were within the Suwannee Valley-area range. STEP results also confirm that 280 N ac<sup>-1</sup> is the maximum N needed to produce the highest yield of 282 bushels ac<sup>-1</sup> when N is applied.

When presenting on Farm Trial Yield Variation across Single Rate, Saqib Mukhtar asked for clarification on replication process and savings. Lakesh recommends that Extension agents review the economic factors with growers. Chris Gunter and Cheryl Mackowiak asked for clarification on the profit margin graph presented. Lakesh presented current N rate/lb. recommendations from UGA, Auburn, MSU, LSU, NC State, and Texas A&M. Samira Daroub posed several questions regarding splits, application process, fuel costs and its impact on profit margin. Michael Dukes added the interim cotton recommendations to the Zoom chat as an example for the committee to see. To review the slides Lakesh presented, his PowerPoint can be found on the PNOC Teams site (Documents > General > PNOC Meetings > 3 September 2025).

Lakesh's findings have been approved for journal publication. It was motioned that the committee vote on approving an interim rate recommendation for non-silage corn. The motion was approved by general consent.

*Nutrient Management Updates – Michael Dukes*

UF/IFAS requested \$6 million from the state budget to continue this work; \$4 million was awarded. Analytic work to continue for tomato, potato, and snap bean. UF/IFAS did not spend all that it was awarded last year, potentially leading to a decrease in funding this year. In future years, funding may not be as certain. Chris Gunter wondered how the downturn in state funding could be impacted by recent changes to state law requiring regular publication of peer-reviewed data, leading to a discussion among several committee members. Clarification about current state laws may be needed.

Michael Dukes reviewed the dates for the upcoming Nutrient Management advisory committee meetings and the upcoming PNOC meetings. Michael recommended cancelling the September 24 meeting and converting the meeting time to an opportunity to review data to prepare recommendations for tomato, potato, and snap bean. There are no set agenda items for September 24 or November 4. Drs. Bayabil and Zicarelli will be presenting on December 1 and Dr. Lindsey on December 15. Michael wondered if any of the upcoming PNOC meetings should be held in person. December 1 could be an option for an in-person meeting. Polls to help schedule quarterly meetings in 2026 have been distributed.

Michael Dukes adjourned the meeting around 10:00am.

Prepared and submitted by Patrick Marr.